

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 11133 230824Z

61

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /076 W

----- 043345

R 230745Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2090

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH SF WA RH

SUBJECT: HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS ON THE SECRETARY'S SOUTHERN
AFRICA SHUTTLE

1. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO PRC DOMESTIC MEDIA REPORT ON
THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT AFRICAN SHUTTLE, SEVERAL HONG KONG
COMMUNIST PRESS COMMENTARIES HAVE ADOPTED A "NON-ANTAGONISTIC"
APPROACH TO THE MOTIVES OF THE SECRETARY AND THE US GOVERNMENT.
THE STRONGEST CRITICISM OF THOSE MOTIVES IS THE CHARGE THAT
THE SECRETARY SEEKS TO ESTABLISH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA A
SPHERE OF US INFLUENCE IN ORDER TO WARD OFF AN ANGOLA-LIKE
ENCROACHMENT BY THE SOVIETS. WHILE THE PRC CERTAINLY WOULD
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PAGE 02 HONG K 11133 230824Z

NOT ADVOCATE SUCH A US SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, IT SHARES THE

SECRETARY'S CONCERN ABOUT THE SOVIETS. IN ADDITION, WHILE SKEPTICAL OF THE ULTIMATE CHANCES FOR THE SHUTTLE'S SUCCESS, THE COMMENTARIES CAST NO ASPERSIONS ON THE STATED US GOAL TO BRING ABOUT BLACK MAJORITY ROLE IN THE AREA.

2. A SEPTEMBER 23 COMMENTARY IN THE TA KUNG PAO STATES THAT THE SECRETARY IS "WORKING HARD" IN SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS IN SOUTHRERN AFRICA, BUT THAT ONLY TIME WILL TELL IF HIS ACTIONS WILL MEET WITH SUCCESS. THE PREVIOUS DAY, COMMENTING THAT THE POOR (SIC) ECONOMIC SITUATION IN BOTH SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA MIGHT INDUCE THEM TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE, TA KUNG PAO STATED "AS FAR AS TIMING GOES, WASHINGTON HAS GOT IT RIGHT." EVEN A VERY HARSH COMMENTARY AGAINST RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER SMITH, CARRIED IN THE SEPTEMBER 23 WEN WEI PAO, CONTAINS NO NEGATIVE REFERENCES TO THE SECRETARY. IDEALLY, THE PRC WOULD PROBABLY PREFER NO SUPERPOWER PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BUT WITH THE SOVIETS AND THEIR CUBAN "COMRADES" PERCHED IN ANGOLA, PEKING IS REFRAINGING FROM THE KIND OF CRITICISM THAT THE SOVIETS ARE CURRENTLY HURLING AT THE U.S.

CROSS

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